

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 6, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. Nov. 6th 1896. My darling Alec:

Thank you so much for your letter today. It does make me so happy hearing from you. You do miss me a little even among your work don't you?

I hope the more substantial models in the laboratory are giving good results. I shall be delighted when you can report real progress.

I forgot to take your letters to your Mother this evening, but will send them tomorrow. I think Mary and even your Father are troubled about your Mother. Her cough is better, but she says she has been very poorly the last few days. Dr. Kerr was out there and said she was not properly nourished, stopped the canned meat diet and ordered five meals a day. He said her cough was nothing, but she is weak from it. She was quite bright however. Lina went out with me, Elsie having gone to the Geographic with Papa as her friend Mr. Moore was to lecture, and we found your Uncle and Aunt and Aileen there. Your Uncle seems to be great on dreams, you have told me of several remarkable ones, here is his latest. He dreamt that Louis had broken his right arm while on duty with his ship, and had written his mother that he was coming home now and wanted her to select a wife for him, which your Aunt had done, and who do you think the young lady was? Guess one, two, three and a dozen times and you would never think of Lina McCurdy? Wasn't that extraordinary. I told Lina of course and we had great fun.

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There is a change in the weather now and today was quite cool and bracing. I went out this morning to call on Bertha Ellis, but she seemed to be out as repeated rings at the door

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bell had no effect, so I went to Mrs. Ellis on Vermont Ave., and she reported Bertha very nearly well and about and able to ride. She was with Bertha at the time of the accident and it certainly might have been a very dangerous one, but no permanent injury has been done. It still is painful if Bertha walks too much, but otherwise it does not hurt.

Charlie said tonight he wanted to have a talk with me. He said Riggs bill for board of the horses had not been paid, but it seems to me there must be some mistake as I remember receiving it myself one or two years ago. You see our income is not nearly as large now as it used to be and it is very hard to accomodate ourselves to reduced means when our children demand more. I am trying to live carefully and I do not think I have incurred any unnecessary expenses except my green velvet gown. I wouldn't have ordered it if I had waited a few days longer but I thought all the time of your favorite maxim about dress. Rich let thy apparel be, etc., etc., and I thought you would like this velvet. I always do want my dresses to please you, and when you don't like them I would never wear them if I could afford not to.

I haven't anything more to say. I want you to cultivate my mind.

Ever yours, Mabel.